

## REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant has amended **Figures 4, 5 and 7** (attached hereto as "Replacement Sheets") and seeks reconsideration thereof.

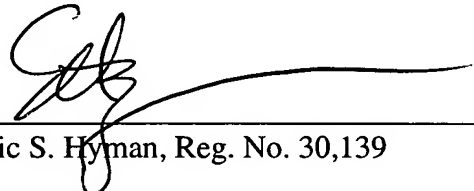
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all outstanding requirements have been complied with. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN

Dated: May 25, 2004

By:   
Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139

### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025  
(310) 207-3800

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on May 25, 2004 by*

 5-25-2004  
Linda Marie D'Elia Dated: May 25, 2004